United Nations A/C.2/71/L.43*

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
6 December 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Second Committee
Agenda item 19 (c)
Sustainable development: disaster risk reduction

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ignacio Diaz de la Guardia (Spain), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.9

Disaster risk reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/204 of 22 December 2015 and all previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,[1]

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] Agenda 21,[3] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[4] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[6] and reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[7] in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

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* Second reissue for technical reasons (8 December 2016).

[1] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recognizing the need for a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk and that disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective,

Reiterating the call in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, business, communities and countries,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of disasters and their devastating impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative economic, social and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, and which hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular that of developing countries,

Noting the convening of the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 March 2016, which adopted the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

Recognizing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, and that the adverse effects of climate change, as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster-induced human mobility, and in this regard acknowledging the internationally agreed outcomes adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5]

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[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Welcoming the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[9] and its early entry into force, encouraging all parties to the Agreement to fully implement it, and encouraging parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters, weather-related hazards, including the El Niño phenomenon, and the adverse effects of climate change to prevent major damage and ensure an adequate response and attention to the affected populations in a timely manner in order to ensure resilience to their impacts, and recognizing in this regard the importance of developing coordinated multi-hazard early warning systems,

Recognizing that disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters, and recognizing also that similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines,

Welcoming the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, and recognizing the importance of achieving the global targets of the Sendai Framework for the implementation of the new urban agenda,

Noting its resolution 70/203 of 22 December 2015, entitled "World Tsunami Awareness Day",

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system, and that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/204;[10]

2. *Urges* the effective implementation of the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;[7]

3. *Reiterates its call* for the prevention of new and the reduction of existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, and encourages countries, the relevant United

[9] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[10] A/71/230.

Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to take into consideration the important role of coordinated disaster risk reduction activities for, inter alia, the achievement of sustainable development;

5. *Encourages* focused action within and across sectors by countries at the local, national, regional and global levels in the four priority areas of the Sendai Framework, namely, understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and in order to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

6. *Welcomes* the updated United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development,[11] in line with the Sendai Framework, and encourages the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to take it into consideration in the coordination and elucidation of their respective activities, in the context of sustainable development and according to the Sendai Framework;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to work towards the achievement of the global targets agreed in the Sendai Framework;

8. *Recognizes* in this regard, given the shorter time frame for achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020, the scale of action needed for the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, such as through the establishment and strengthening of national disaster loss databases, national and local risk profiles and available capacities, as well as the conduct of risk assessments, and reaffirms the need for the enhancement of the implementation capacity and capability of developing countries, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation, for the provision of means of implementation to augment domestic efforts in accordance with their national priorities;

9. *Urges* States, while implementing the Sendai Framework, to continue working on data collection and the development of baselines on current losses, including working towards the collection of disaggregated information and historical disaster losses going back, at least, to 2005, where feasible;

10. *Encourages* Member States to give appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[12] where it is reflected across several Goals and targets;

11. *Reiterates its strong encouragement* of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as applicable, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[13] the Paris Agreement, adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[9] and the Sendai Framework, while respecting the relevant mandates, in order to build

[11] CEB/2016/4, annex V.
[12] Resolution 70/1.
[13] Resolution 69/313.

synergies and resilience, and addressing the global challenge of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty;

12. *Urges* that due consideration continue to be given to the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework monitor;

13. *Looks forward* to the outcome of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction, recognizes the active engagement of Member States as well as the support from the United Nations system and other stakeholders in its work, and stresses the need for the outcome to be developed in coherence with the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to ensure feasibility and consistency in implementation, collection of data and reporting;

14. *Recognizes* that, while each State has the primary responsibility for preventing and reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders, and also recognizes that non-State and other relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Sendai Framework, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations and relevant agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and intergovernmental organizations, play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels;

15. *Encourages* Governments to promote women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes;

16. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of youth, volunteers, migrants, local communities, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media, in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework;

17. *Recognizes* that biological hazards require strengthened coordination between disaster and health risk management systems in the areas of risk assessment, surveillance and early warning and that resilient health infrastructure and increasing the overall capacity of health systems reduces overall disaster risk and builds disaster resilience;

18. *Welcomes* the convening of the upcoming fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Cancún, Mexico, from 22 to 26 May 2017;

19. *Also welcomes* the regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction held in 2016, and looks forward to those to be held in 2017, which will inform the discussions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

20. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk;

21. *Acknowledges* the importance of the work of the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in disaster risk reduction, the substantial increase in demands on the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for timely, stable and predictable resources necessary for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

22. *Recognizes* the continued importance of voluntary funding, and urges existing and new donors to provide sufficient funding to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through unearmarked, and, where possible, multi-annual contributions;

23. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Disaster risk reduction", unless otherwise agreed.